(b) Necessary measures such as construction of groynes, retaining walls, coastal shelter belt afforestation and mangrove plantation etc. have been taken up by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Flood problems in Bihar

† 949. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interlinking of Koshi and Gandak rivers is the only practical solution and measure for permanent solution of flood problem in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of positive steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has not done any study, which indicates that permanent solution of flood problem of Bihar is in interlinking of Koshi and Gandak. The NWDA proposal for interbasin water transfer has main objective of increasing irrigation. However, there is incidental benefit of mitigation of flood due to construction of storages. NWDA has proposed Koshi-Mechi, Koshi-Ghagra and Gandak-Ganga links which can help in mitigating flood problems in the State of Bihar. The National Common Minimum Programme of UPA Government provides for a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with southern rivers to be done in a fully consultative manner and also exploring the possibility of linking sub basins of rivers in States like Bihar.

Funds to NE States/Bihar for repair of dams.

† 950. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to increase in the allocation of funds

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.